SUBJECTS.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that an enquiry into the matter was necessary. He also stated that he had changed his original opinion on the subject, given at the last Assembly, as a result of several discussions he had since had with the Missionaries of South Travancore.

Mr. Manuel Pereira (Member, Nominated) said that there was no litigation about inheritance among the Roman Catholics and that his community did not want any enquiry into the matter.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be considered.

25. *Exemption of Gosha women from appearance, as witnesses, before the Criminal Courts.*

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that, unlike the practice in the Civil Courts, there was no provision for exempting Gosha women from appearing as witnesses in the Criminal Courts. This led to great hardship as ladies of respectable families were often cited as witnesses in Criminal cases by unscrupulous litigants. Such families, in many cases, sought to buy off the persons citing their women as witnesses by the payment of bribes. The Member therefore requested that, when Gosha women were cited as witnesses in unavoidable cases, the parties applying for their examination should be asked to meet the cost involved in taking their statements at their residences. The Member requested that a Bill be introduced into the Legislative Council to secure this end, if there was already no provision in the law for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Under the existing law the Criminal Courts have the power to exempt Gosha ladies from personal appearance in individual cases. The representations of the Member will be communicated to the High Court and their attention drawn to the existing provisions in the law.

26. *Representations about the Court Fees Regulation Amendment Bill.*

Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaren (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) said that the current rates of court-fees in the State were much higher than the rates obtaining in British India and that the new Bill had provided for an increase of 50 per cent over the existing rates. He thought that this increase was neither necessary nor justifiable. He said that he was told that the same view was held by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council and that the Bill might probably be amended accordingly. The Member therefore said that he did not want to dwell upon the subject at length.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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